11/29/66

Dear Henry,

The mail in Vermont is better than here. Your letter, dated the 25th, was postmarked the 24th., and got here today! Some of mine never gets anywhere, especially when it is parts of my ms. to my British agent.

Shortly there will be WHITEWASH II, which tells who did the whitewashing and how. I've ransacked the archive that Lane wails is barren, and I have a book so shocking that a publisher who wants it told me to rush out the private edition and then we'd talk.

WHITEWASH III I plan for February. It will be documents with slight commentary. As a historian, I think it will interest you.

I leave for some NY appearances and meeting Sunday, returning after an all night TV taping session the sixth-seventh via a Philadelphia radio program (10 p.m. 7th-2 a.m. 8th). The eleventh I leave for Madison, the beginning of a speaking-radio-TV tour that includes Chicago, San Fransisco, Los Angeles, Bakersfield and perhaps other things in Calif. of which I'm unaware because others are making the arrangements. I'll get home the 22nd or 23rd.

These were commitments I made earlier. It is costing me a fortune to keep them because I cannot accept a radio contract to tell the story of the book in39 weeks (taped), 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week. Two other radio-program companies may be interested. I have indefinite offers from them.

So, whether I can afford to accept your offer depends on what I learn when I return. I'd like to. Those college appearances I've made have been stimulating and worthwhile. Wonderful, concerned, articulate and informed, really good kids. Until now, I've told those whose invitations I accepted during the summer (and I've accepted no new ones-even declining the offer of a Calif TV station to fly me out) I'd accept actual costs and whatever they pay others. I have no idea what this means for none of the checks have arrived! Therefore, I cannot define "terms". I have no idea what others get. In part it would depend on the time required. I'm having an intensive day and a half and two heavy nights at Madison, including a seminar.

It would help if I knew about transportation time. From Washingto to Burlington, how good are connections?

So, I can say I'd like to, if I can afford to, and right now there is nothing of which I know to preclude it. But aside from this radio thing, which really pays very well, the field is developing much more rapidly than anyone not close to it can realize. My new book, with any attention, will be a major sensation and it will very much influence other pending books, the most important of which I believe it will destroy. The initial printing is 10,000, not yet started. I wrote letters to the wholesalers who stocked WHITEWASH over the weekend and mailed them in Washington yesterday morning and 30% is already sold, 1,250 by telephone orders from Calif.! There are 22,500 copies of WHITEWAS and a printing of a quarter of a million in a 95¢edition due soon. With all of this the deplorable business morals keep me in debt. The largest wholesaler has yet to pay me for his June books. One paid for them last month and took 2% for cash. The printer is tolerant, that's the only way we can do it. We've not taken a cent from it because we haven't paid him. He's doing the new oneon the cuff. I was going to do but 5,000, because it is his money. He said 10,000, to save me the additional cost of $250 for going back to press....Please give me an idea of what you can pay. I'll do as much as you want the time I'm there, if I can do it ad lib, which is livelier than anything prepared. I've recently switched to but little speech at colleges for I find the audience likes to question me, the subject cannot be covered in a week, and everyone is more satisfied that way. If I'm sitting down and have a pa system, I can go for uninterruped hours-I've done as many as eight! Sincerely (and thanks).